

Amendment Dated April 30, 2007
Serial No. 10/646,024

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in this application is respectfully requested. By this amendment claims 6 and 13 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 USC 101

Claim 13 was rejected under USC 101. Applicant has amended the claim to overcome this rejection and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claims 6-8 were rejected under USC 112. Applicant has amended claim 6 to overcome this rejection and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the specification as originally filed at page 8, lines 4-7.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Adrangi, et al.

Claims 1-8 and 11-19 were rejected under USC 102 as anticipated by Adrangi, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0025051 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following arguments.

This application relates to a method and apparatus to facilitate roaming between wireless domains by enabling a wireless user to obtain wireless network access on a new foreign domain in connection with transmitting location registration information to a home domain, so that admittance on the new foreign domain may be secured without having a pre-established relationship with the foreign domain. (Specification at Page 4, lines 2-8).

When a wireless user enters a new domain, the new wireless domain may require the user to have an account on the domain before the wireless domain will provide the user with access. (Specification at Page 2, lines 3-13). Conventionally, the user would need to undergo an authentication process with the wireless domain to establish its identity and authorization on the wireless domain. (Id.) This may present a problem for a user, since the user may not have an account with the wireless network provider that is hosting the wireless domain. For example, if a

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user travels to a new city, the user may not have an account with the wireless network provider that is operating in that city.

Applicants discovered a way in which a wireless user may access a wireless network in a new foreign domain, exchange location information registration information with a home domain, and secure admission to the local wireless network without having an account on the local wireless network or otherwise gaining admittance to the new foreign domain.

Claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

A method for facilitating roaming between domains, comprising:
providing preliminary connectivity to a first wireless user on a first wireless network in a first wireless domain, said first wireless network not including a home agent associated with the first wireless user;
receiving identifying information and registration information associated with the first wireless user on the first wireless network;
sending the identifying information and registration information to a second domain containing the home agent associated with the first wireless user;
receiving an access result from the second domain; and
selectively granting access to the wireless user to enable the wireless user to gain admittance on the first wireless network based on the access result.

The term "gain admittance" is a defined term, and as such must be interpreted according to the definition set forth in the specification of this application. Specifically, in the Specification as originally filed at Page 4, lines 12-15, applicants state that the phrase "gain admittance to the wireless network" refers to "determining by that wireless network whether the wireless user has authorization to participate in communications on the wireless network."

Thus, claim 1 recites a method whereby the foreign wireless network will provide preliminary connectivity to a wireless user, and then selectively grant access to the wireless user such that the user is authorized to participate in communications on the wireless network, based on an access result determined by another domain. Accordingly, claim 1 recites a way for an user to obtain access to a local wireless network without requiring the user to have an account on that network or undergo an authorization process with that local wireless network.

Adrangi does not teach or suggest anything of this nature. Adrangi teaches a system in which Mobile Security Gateways (MSGs) provide a security layer between a wired and wireless network. (Adrangi at paragraph 14). The MSGs are "analogous" to a VPN gateway. In Adrangi, the mobile node will first undergo a registration process with its home MSG. (Adrangi at paragraph 18). Thereafter, if the mobile node moves to a new domain serviced by a new

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MSG, it will discover the MSG responsible for that new domain and register with the new MSG. (Adrangi at paragraph 23). The mobile node will also send a binding update to its home MSG (home agent) to update its new Care of Address (CoA) at the home MSG.

Adrangi does not address how the mobile node "gains admittance" to a foreign network. Rather, it appears that Adrangi requires the mobile node to obtain access to the foreign network using a standard registration process. (Adrangi at paragraph 23). Thus, Adrangi does not teach or suggest the step of "selectively granting access to the wireless user to enable the wireless user to gain admittance on the first wireless network based on the access result." Since Adrangi does not look at the access result, it cannot "selectively" grant access as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Claim 13 contains a similar recitation and, accordingly, is also believed patentable over Adrangi for substantially the same reasons.

The dependent claims not specifically addressed are believed patentable for the reasons stated above in connection with the independent claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of the dependent claims as well.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 over Adrangi and Corrigan

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 over Adrangi in view of Corrigan (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0187775). Since claims 9-10 depend from claim 1, and Corrigan fails to make up the deficiencies noted in connection with Adrangi, these claims are believed patentable for substantially the same reasons set forth above.

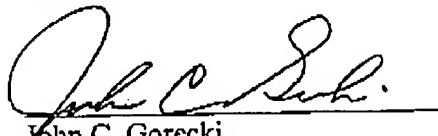
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an action to that effect. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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If any fees are due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502246 (Ref: NN-15964).

Respectfully Submitted


John C. Gorecki
Registration No. 38,471

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John C. Gorecki, Esq.
P.O. Box 553
Carlisle, MA 01741
Tel: (978) 371-3218
Fax: (978) 371-3219
john@gorecki.us